

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE BY DON
OBERDORFER, THURSDAY, APRIL 13 HEADED "CLUSTER BOMB
CURB SOUGHT IN MIDEAST."

2. THE UNITED STATES HAS ASKED ISRAEL FOR NEW AND
TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF U.S.-SUPPLIED
CLUSTER BOMBS FOLLOWING THEIR EMPLOYMENT AGAINST
CIVILIAN TARGETS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, ADMINISTRATION
OFFICIALS SAID YESTERDAY.

3. THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION IS DESIGNED TO
INFLUENCE THE POTENTIAL USES OF SOME 22,000 OF THE
DEVASTATING PROJECTILES THAT HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED TO
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ISRAEL SINCE THE EARLY 1970S, THE SOURCES SAID.

4. AMONG THE RESTRICTIONS BEING SOUGHT IS ASSURANCE
THAT ISRAELI FIELD COMMANDERS WILL NOT EMPLOY THESE
WEAPONS WITHOUT A DECISION BY POLITICALLY RESPONSIBLE
SUPERIORS. THIS IS TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THE
LEBANESE CASE, IN WHICH ISRAELI OFFICIALS ARE REPORTED

TO HAVE SAID THAT CLUSTER BOMBS WERE USED IN SOME

CASES WITHOUT CLEARANCE BY TOP OFFICIALS.

5. CLUSTER BOMB UNITS, OR CBU'S, WERE DEVELOPED AND USED BY THE UNITED STATES IN INDOCHINA. ONE CBU CAN RELEASE A HAIL OF GRENADE-SIZED WEAPONS, EACH CONTAINING HUNDREDS OF STEEL SHARDS. THOUGH SUPPOSEDLY USED FOR SUPPRESSION OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSES OVER LARGE AREAS, THE CBU'S DEVELOPED A MURDEROUS REPUTATION AS ANTI-PERSONNEL WEAPONS.

6. REP. PAUL N. MCCLOSKEY, JR. (R-CALIF.), WHO HAS OBJECTED TO ISRAELI USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS IN LEBANON, SAID THE WEAPON WAS SUPPLIED TO ISRAEL BETWEEN 1970 AND 1975, SUBJECT TO AN AGREEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE USED "ONLY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES." THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTED EARLY LAST YEAR THAT ISRAEL HAD PROMISED THE UNITED STATES IN DECEMBER 1976 THAT ALL VARIETIES OF CBU'S WOULD BE USED ONLY AGAINST MILITARY, FORTIFIED TARGETS AND ONLY IF ISRAEL WERE ATTACKED BY MORE THAN ONE COUNTRY.

7. AN ISRAELI MILITARY SPOKESMAN RECENTLY SAID THAT CBU'S HAD BEEN USED AGAINST "ARTILLERY UNITS AND FIELD POSITIONS" IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. ON-THE-SPOT DISPATCHES UNCLASSIFIED

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BY U.S. CORRESPONDENTS AND U.S. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, HOWEVER, HAVE SAID THAT CLUSTER BOMBS RAINED DOWN ON REFUGEE CAMPS, FARMS AND VILLAGES AT THE TIME OF THE ISRAELI INVASION LAST MONTH.

8. A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID LAST WEEKEND THAT ISRAEL'S USE OF CBU'S IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WAS IN VIOLATION OF THE RESTRICTIONS THAT HAD BEEN AGREED TO. "WE ARE HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO ASSURING THAT THOSE RESTRICTIONS WILL BE OBSERVED IN THE FUTURE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

9. ISRAELI OFFICIALS HERE SAID ASSURANCES HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE UNITED STATES IN CONVERSATIONS LAST WEEK IN ISRAEL. U.S. OFFICIALS SAID A NEW ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS HAS STARTED SINCE THEN, WITH THE AMERICAN SIDE ASKING FOR "IRONCLAD" RESTRICTIONS AND PROCEDURES TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE FOLLOWED IN PRACTICE.

10. IN A "DEAR COLLEAGUE" LETTER TO ALL HOUSE MEMBERS DATED MONDAY, MCCLOSKEY PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL CALLING FOR TERMINATION OF ALL

ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL IN THE EVENT OF ANY FUTURE
USE OF CBU AGAINST CIVILIAN TARGETS. MCCLOSKEY ALSO

SENT LETTERS TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND ISRAELI AMBASSADOR
SIMCHA DINITZ ANNOUNCING THE SAME PROPOSAL.

II. "I APPRECIATE THAT ACTS OF TERROR JUSTIFY MEAS-
URED MILITARY RESPONSE," SAID MCCLOSKEY IN HIS LETTER
TO DINITZ, IN A REFERENCE TO THE PALESTINIAN COMMANDO
RAID WHICH LED TO THE ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON LAST
MONTH. "I DO NOT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT THE USE OF
CBU AGAINST CIVILIAN AREAS CAN BE JUSTIFIED UNDER ANY
CIRCUMSTANCES. IT SEEMS TO ME ISRAEL PRACTICALLY EN-
SURES A GENERATION OF TERRORISM BY HER OPPONENTS WITH
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THIS SORT OF GOVERNMENTAL DECISION." MCCLOSKEY SAID.

12. MCCLOSKEY, WHO SAID HE HAS SUPPORTED MILITARY AND
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL ON EVERY VOTE IN RECENT
YEARS, ALSO QUESTIONED PRESS REPORTS IN JANUARY THAT
ISRAEL SUPPLIED CBU TO ETHIOPIA, WHICH IN TURN USED
THEM AGAINST INSURGENTS IN ERITREA. HE SAID HE HAS NOT
RECEIVED A REPLY FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO HIS IN-
QUIRIES ABOUT THESE REPORTS. CHRISTOPHER

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